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LATE UPENDRA THAKUR



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THE PREHISTORIC EXCAVATIONS AND EXPLORATIONS IN NEPAL+

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During the past few years important discoveries have been made in the field of archaeology of Nepal. Many important excavations are being conducted with very promising results. There had been important discoveries in the prehistoric period from eastern as well as western Nepal. The discovery of Ramapithecus a couple of miles north of Butwal on the bank of Tinau river in the Sivalik range placed Nepal among those countries where mankind were living at around eleven million years back.[1] Dr. Gudrun Corvinus, a German Scholar has discovered between 1984-1994, about Sixty-four sites[2] in the Dang Deokhuri Valley in the south-western Nepal. The sites have been found on the beds of the Surai Khola, Mashot river, Arjun river, Babai river and Rapti river. All the first three rivers ultimately join the Rapti river on the south. There are workshop sites, camping sites, simple flaking and small activity spots. The stone tools like Handaxes (from Dang found in the Basal gravels and from Satpati alluvial and stones) found from the frontal Himalayan thrust zone, Levallois like blade and flake industry site, discovered in the Tui Valley and from the Arjun river terraces, Chopper and heavy duty industry tools were collected from river terraces and fan deposits. The variety of flake industries with or without choppers and core scrapers have been found from the upper levels of the dawn bed clay silt of the Babai fromation in Dang, Tui and Deokhuri Valleys. Microlithic industries have been found from Lamahi and Bhatar kunda in the Deokhuri Vallkey. As well as the Neolithic settlement have been noticed from Dang and Tui Valleys. The polished axes and cord-marked pottery have been collected from the sites. To sum up all these tool industries, we can group them into following divisions - Handaxes and other early Paleolithic tools (found in the basal gravels below silt and clay along the Babai river banks from Dang Valley), large flake cores (found in the Quartzite cobble-boulder gravel and in the alluvial silts and clay formation of the Tui Valley), flake industry having blades, points and Levallois cores (from the Arjun river of Deokhuri Valley),

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variety of flake industries with or without core scrapers and chopper-chopping tools comparable to the Soan tools of northern Panjor in Pakistan, (found in the silt and clay layers from Dang and Deokhuri Valleys), Microliths without potsherds (the tool types are lunate, point, celt and blades; their raw materials are chert and quartzite, found from the alluvial silt at Lamahi in Deokhuri, at Ammapur in the Tuivalley and Daingaon in Dang Valley), Neolithic polished celts, small flakes, lithic arrowhead and cordmarked pottery (found in the gray clay of Dang and Tui Valleys). The materials of the above mentioned tools are quartzite, shale, silica, crystal-quartz, tuff and in few cases chert stones. The tool types from western Nepal (Dang, Deokhuri and Tui Valleys) are quite comparable to the North Indian tools. And they can be dated from the terminal Pleistocene to early Holocene and late Holocene periods. Corvinus has also discovered heavyduty tools of adzes, knives, core scrapers and choppers from the Rato Khola near Patu on southern end of Siwalik hills in the eastern Nepal. The material of the tools are cobbles of quartzite. They show no cultural connections with the prehistoric tools and sites of western Nepal in the Dang-Deokhuri and Tui Valleys. Some of the adzes from Patu have prominent gloss which have been found on the working edges, according to Corvinus this might have been the result of cutting of wood and bamboos. The Patu Mesolithic culture has no affinities to India and is closer to the South-East Asian Hoabinhian culture (of Vietnam, Thailand and Burma). The Patu industry of Eastern Nepal in the Mahottari district can be placed under Mesolithic-Microlithic culture of early Pliestoscene age.[3] Another scholar Prof. Randi Holand from university of Bergen (Norway) associated by Kumarlal Joshi of DOA, under the agreement with the Department of Archaeology, HMG, had explored in November 1993 about forty sites in the Dang Deokhuri Valley. Among them three sites named as Gidhiniya, Raniapur and Majhghatuwa, all in the Tui Valley watered by Babai Khola have been excavated between January-February 1995. Large number of lithic artifacts, like scrapers, cores, flakes, Blades and Mousterian points have been discovered. According to the excavators the finding of blade cores from Majhghatuwa on the southern part of Tui river valley indicate that the site may belong to the upper Paleolithic period. On the whole, the sites cover a span of time period from upper Paleolithic, Middle and late Paleolithic to Neolithic and Iron Age. At Raniapur wheel turned pottery and iron slags were also found on the top-most layers over the first occupation during the Neolithic period.[4]

It is to be noted here that the first prehistoric explorations on the prehistory of Nepal had been started by Mr. R.V. Joshi in 1964 which had been followed by Dr. N.R. Bannerjee, J.L. Sharma and Prof. Ramniwash Pandey between 1969 and 1983. From the explorations of Dr. Banerjee and Sharma large number of tool types such as celt, chisel, and axes were found. All Neolithic tools have been made from the raw materials like chlorite, phyllite, basalt, quartzite and dolomite. They have been collected from the sites like Jugugaon (Kavre

palanchok), Charikot (near Dolkha), Lubhu (within the Kathmandu Valley), Kottanri (Danda Khola, west of Narayanghat) and Dang Valley. In 1984 lower molars of Bos Nomadicus had been discovered from Manadeva Khola near the Bhadrawas village in the Kathmandu Valley which can be dated between upper to middle Pleistocene period. In 1979 M. Fort and V. Gupta had collected vertebrate fossils from the Nakhu-khola belonging to the lower Pleistocene age. Mr. Gupta has corelated the Nakhu Khola fossils with the fossils found from Kashmir in the upper Karewas and Pinjor formation of the Siwalik group. The fossils have been dated between one to three million years. Similarly the team of Corvinus had discovered from the Kamala basin (on the eastern Nepal, district Siraha) carbonized wood, skulls of corocodile, large pig, antelope and elephants.[5]

Excavation in The Mustang Caves and Open Air Sites

Hundreds of caves and open air archaeological sites had been discovered since 1985 by the archaeologists of the Department of Archaeology, Nepal and later on from 1986-1990 on-wards also joined by many German archaeologists and specialists on Tibetology, Architects, geographers and other technicians. The site have been located between Annapurna and Dhaulagiri High Himalaya mountains watered by Kaligandaki and its several tributaries. The caves have been dug into the massif conglomeratic cliff rock-faces, twenty to fifty metres above the river-bed and are facing towards south. They are arranged in one to seven tiers, cut one above the other in the southern Mustang, whereas, in the north Mustang even eleven storied caves have been located. Geologically this area is very important because the Tethys sediments are present in the Thak Khola (one of the important rivers in the southern Mustang). It is to note here that Tethys sea exhisted between Urasia and Gondwana land, two super continents which were formed by the first split of the ancient supper continent named Pangaea. It was the site of a large Mesozoic Geosyncline which was latter on elevated into the great alps and the Himalayas.[6]

The dugout caves have been found at different relative heights, among them the highest series have been located at 3730 m. near Muktinath and the lower ones at the height of 2740 m. at Jomsom. They had been dug or cut with crescentic weapons like adzes or chisels with one to 14 cms. within. The inner faces were plastered with clay mixed with husk. The caves are 10m to 12m long and 2m to 4m wide with the height of 1.20 m. They have doorways, windows and nitches. There are one to twelve rooms in a cave and the partition walls, grain storage bins, and shaped hearths build with sundried bricks. Sometimes stone masonary were also built to support the wooden beams and wooden galleries on the frontal elevations. Flight of steps were cut either into the rockwalls or wooden ladders were made to reach the upper stories. The cave dwellers used barley, wheat and other grains of both wild and cultivated types. They also used meat of sheep, goat, cattle, yak, mule or horse and deer. Both the wild and domisticated animal remains have been found. Some open air sites facing the caves or

along the river beds have been found. The claves as well as the sites had been occupied from 9th-8th Century B.C. to the late medieval period of 17th century A.D. Among the important antiquities found from the caves were spindal whorls of deer antler, bodkins or awls of schist stone, stone and iron arrowheads, wooden spoons or purbhas, thin circular shell beads, shell pendants, muskdeer teeth necklace, beads of bone, glass, agate, tubular bronze beads. carnelian beads, bronze object with head and streched arms, bronze earrings, micro glass beads, leather bags, barbed arrow-head with a single tang, iron knife blade, unspun animal hairs, wooden handle of a tool, carved cambarb, fragment of mat or basket and Tibetan paper manuscripts. Similarly, handmade grey pottery, red and other coloured ware and pots with lot of mica have been discovered. In the community burial caves, copper or bronze headless anthropomorphic like figures, copper rings, twin-joined pots, cord-decorated pottery, channelled basins with solid handle, cup with ring-stand, vases with spouts or semicircular handles. and big storage jars have been collected. On the basis of the study of the antiquities the people who dugout those caves can be placed in the late Neolithic phase but there are also indications of their being passed through Chalcolithic and Megalithic phases before they were crossed into the Iron and late historical periods. There is a close link between the earliest cave dwellers of Mustang with the earliest periods of Leh and Laddakha. It has been rightly observed by Dr. Haffner and Pohle that "the extremely elevated high laying mountain valley inhabited (now-a-days) by Tibetan ethnic groups, the High Himalayas form a geographical unit that extends in the west as far as Laddakha and in the East as far as Bhutan[7]. Similar views have been enpressed by Robert Shafer[8] who writes- "we may reconstruct the migration of Aryans....the Dardic branch remained in north-west India, the Dardaras, Kashmiris, and some Khasas (some having been left behind in the Himalayas of Nepal and Kumaon)". The map made by Mr. Shafer clearly shows and as he says that the Khasas lived at the upper course of Sutlej near Manasarovara Lake during the time of Bharat-war. The Asoka Legend describes about his military actions against the Khasas when he was a prince, shortly before the death of King Bindusar[9] is also indicating the relationship of the early settlers in the Mustang caves with the Khasas. The anatomical examination of the dead bodies found from the caves, the use of bronze with the mixture of metals like copper, tin and zinc, the use of faience and glass-beads, the lipped-bowl and basin etc. prove the connection of the Mustang caves with the western Neolithic and the Harappan sites. They had probably also interactions with the Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites in the southern lower lands (of Bihar and U.P. States). In this connection it is worth to note the remarks made by B.B. Lal (1960), I may here quote, "in fact, the belief that may of the traits of chalcolithic culture of central India and Northern Deccan may ultimately be derivable from Harappan culture itself"[9A]. The finding of Manank coin and Lichhavi type of potsherds from the stratified digging at the open air site of Khinga in the Muktinath Valley, clearly indicate the trade relationship between the Mustang people

with Kathmandu city during 5th-6th century A.D. The excavation works in the region is still continued.

The Excavations at Handigaon, Dhumvarahi, Deopatan, and Lalitpur Bhandarkhal

The joint team of Dept. of Archaeology, Nepal and ISMEO had excavated at Harigaon betwen 1984 to 1989 under the leadership of Giovanni Verardi and the final report has been published in 1992. The team has divided all the layers and materials found from the excavation into five periods. Among them period I beginning with 1st B.C. and period V have been dated from 15th A.D. to present-day, because people are still living at and around the site. According to the excavators human activities were started at the site during, 1st century B.C. Among the important find of this period are the Mathura red sand stone fragments, large size bricks and on the basis of those materials and also from radio carbon dating the beginning of the period I phase B and C has been dated between 1st century B.C. to early 1st century A.D.[10] The Mathura red sandstone weight or physical exercise tool from Harigaon probably represented the figure of sandstone Krishna slaying the demon-horse Kesin (as found from Pakistan, G.Verardi, p. 114). It is to note that Mathura sandstone have been found from other urban centres also, and the figure from Harigaon might be the origin of the worship of Panch-Vira or Vrisnis in the Kathmandu Valley. In the period I phase B and C a tank with burnt-brick wall enclosure, postholes indicating the thatched dwellings. have been found. The C14 dating available for this strata indicated a date range of 199 B.C. to 250 A.D. Similarly, period II has been dated between 6th-7th cent. A.D. covering the period of great King Amsusvarma. In period III use of square brick structure having nine kundas either for the Vastupuja along with the Dikpalas or made to economise bricks in the Garbhagriha has been found. The excavators like to call it a stupa but there is every possibility of it having the basement of a huge temple with a door on the east.[11]

Among the important finds a Kushan coin belonging to Kanishka of Oeso variety had been found, some other Lichhavi coins like Mananka, Pasupati were also discovered from the excavations; some of the potsherds found from the site can be dated to 1st cent. B.C. (Verardi, 202). It is worth to be mentioned here that in January 1965 from the excavations before Manamaneshvari temple near Harigaon, excavated under the direction of Prof. S.B. Deo and also participated by the present writer, fifteen pottery types found in the excavation can be compared with the excavate pottery from Ahichhatra.[12] It is to be known that the site of Harigaon is the eastern most extension of Vishal Nagar, which was inhabitated and urbanized during the 2nd century B.C., most probably by the Gupta-Abhiras who came into the valley earlier than the Lichchhavis. Some of the recent and earlier discoveries like a 2nd century A.D. Brahmi inscription on the pedestal of the portrait of Jayavarma in the Mathura style of the Kushanas, the earlier discovered[13] Yaksh image discovery of the earlier pottery

types (2nd Cent. B.C. - 1st Cent. A.D.), some matrika images, one of the Mahismardini image (L.S. Bangdel, 19) prove the earlier settlement in the Handigaon area around 2nd century B.C. Within Vishalnagar there are indications of the existence of two Lichhavi palaces named as Managriha and Kailashkuta Bhavan and proved by the topography of the area as well as discovery from within Vishalnagar of three inscriptions mentioning about those palaces in some details[14]. About twenty Lichchhavi inscriptions have been found so far from Vishalnagar area.

The joint team of ISMEO and DOA have also excavated at Dhumvarahi, Deopatan and Lalit pattan, and the reports are being published shortly.

One of the team of ISMEO along with DOA under the leadership of M. Vidale has also excavated at Simaraongarha, which is situated in the midterai region of Nepal and about 25 kilometers South-east of Birgunj which is the headquarter of Parasa district. Nanyadeva, a Karnata, who had founded the dynasty of Mithila Karnata, had made Simaraongarha in 1097 A.D. his capital city and started ruling from there. He was succeeded by Gangadeva, Narasinghadeva, Rama Singhadeva, Sakti Singhadeva and Hari Singhadeva, who was the last King of this dynasty. He had been defeated and uprooted from the land by Ghiyasuddin Tughlug in 1326 A.D. This dynasty gave a good administration in the land and helped many scholars for studies and writing valuable books covering a wide range of subjects. Simaraonagarha was an important town in the medieval period from where the visitors to the Kathmandu city and the Tibetans used to cross, as also described by a Tibetan monk named Dharma Swami (1236 A.D.-1959)[15] who passing through the city had described the city in detail. From the descriptions and drawings of Italian father Cassiano of Macerata, who had visited the city from 1742 to 1745 A.D., while passing through it for Kathmandu Valley, has drawn the defence system of Simaraongarh which was in the labyrinth (Chakravyuha) design[16]. The team members have studied and taken trial excavations at the site for two seasons and produced their short report in Ancient Nepal No. 126-127, 1991-92, 1-35; and Ancient Nepal No. 135, Oct. Nov. 1993, 10-21. The team has tentatively dated the site between 9th-14th A.D. and have excavated at several places for stratigraphic position and about the defence systems.

Excavations At The Mayadevi Temple, Lumbini

The joint team of DOA, Lumbini Development Trust and Japan Buddhist Federation are excavating at the temple site since 1994. The aim of the excavation is to find the different phases of temple constructions at the site, to collect information about other monuments within or before, below the late temple platform, and to findout the remains of the Nativity tree below which Lord Buddha was born. From the excavations conducted at the site so far,

five phases of temple constructions have been found. Among them the oldest being the Mauryan period, followed by Sunga, late Gupta and subsequent periods. The team has not reached into the Sanctum of the Mauryan period temple and the excavation is being continued [17] Devala Mitra has assesed in 1971 that "it is likely that the stone enclosure of Asoka lies buried below either the plinth of this very temple or the ruins of a still earlier temple." Two important features have been noted so far from the excavations, three brick-build kundas, arranged in a trangular form constructed during the Sunga period have been noticed. Most probably there are all together five Kundas for the worship of four dikpalas and the central being of Vastudevata. From the Kundas polished Asokan chunar stone pieces have been found. The other feature noticed was the construction of Sikhara style of temple in Saptaratha pattern with moulded bricks at around 8th cent. A.D.

Excavations at Gotihawa Stupa and Explorations at Pande Sisahnia in the Western Tarai

The team of ISMEO along with DOA and Lumbini Development Trust have started in 1995 excavations at the Gotihawa Stupa, which is about four KM. South-west of Taulihawa. This stupa was excavated by A. Waddel and drawn by P.C. Mukherji[18] in 1899. Mukherji identified the Gotihawa stupa as the Nirvana stupa of Krakuchhand Buddha. The excavators have reopened part of the old trench of Waddel. Below the brick stupa a low mud structure have been marked, few animal bones have also been found from the trench. According to the excavator the stupa is larger than drawn by Mr Mukherji and from the mud structure few N.B.P. sherds have been found[19].

Sisahnia

The map of the site was drawn and two higher mounds have been covered by grids. The materials collected from the sruface of the stupa include potsherds, beads and metals. A headless Kushan terracotta figurine and terracotta animal figurines were also collected from the surface.

Discovery of Copper Anthropomorphic Figure from Jagatpur (near Dhanagadhi)

From the Jagatpur village near the Tikapur police station on the western most Nepal terai, while digging clay for brickwork a copper anthropomorphic figure was discovered in April 1993. The piece is 36 cm (14") long and 24 cm (10"-11") broader. It weights 3 kg. 800 grms. This piece can be placed between the anthropomorphs with clubed hands and streched legs found from Bisauli, Fatehgarh and Sheorajpur, as well as the parasu type of piece from Sarthauli[20]. Through two pieces of anthropomorphic figures, one from Saipai,[21] the other from Bisauli[22] shows only slight curvature in the hands than the other group. The upper portion of the anthropomorphic figure found from the Jagatpur (from Nepal) can be

compared to the Sarthauli Parasu piece, whereas the lower portion of the legs of this piece are similar to other pieces from copper hoard sites in the Indian Gangetic plains.

One more feature of the Tikapur figure is that it has no clubbing on the head nor does it bear the hammering marks on all over its body as is marked in the U.P. figures. It is to note that the Sarthauli hatchet has similarly no hammering marks over the body or its face.

The recent discoveries have shown that the copper hoard culture and some of its figures have also been found from other sites like Lothal, Mitathal (near Delhi), Bhagawanpur (T.C. figure), (in the Harappan period) and also in the Gandhara grave cultures (joshi - K.N. Dikshit, 1977).[23]

Exploration of the Burial Sites on the East of Kosi River

Minister for Education, Culture and Social Welfare of Nepal, Shri Modnath Prasrit had brought to the notice of the Department of Archaeology about the discovery of Burial sites in the Bhojapur, Solukhumbu, Khotang and Sankhua Sabha in Udayapur districts of Eastern Nepal, throug an article about them in a local weekly newspaper named Drishti dated 1st April 1992 (Chaitra 2048, Vol-9). The Department of Archaeology within a fortnight after the news publication, had sent two teams of archaeologists one under Mr. Kosha Prasad Acharya and another under Mr. Rajesh Mathema to explore the area and report the DOA about their finds. From the newspaper report and the reports it has been found that there are burial chambers made of dressed stone slabs and within those chambers the burials along with some burial furnitures like, ritual burial pots, the semi precious stone beads and ornaments, legged stone quarn and pestle, terracotta animal figures were found. There are also reports of finding prehistoric tools, bronze and iron implements from within the burial pits.

This discovery has opened a great possibility of exploring either Megalithic or a series of Neolithic Burial sites, camping or settlement sites from all along the Eastern Nepal beginning from the east of Kauski river. The Department of Archaeology is sending a team of archaeologist within a week this year to explore and to take trial excavations at some selected Burial sites.

Conservation of Monuments

The Department of Archaeology has also done some important conservation works within the years after the fifty SAARC Archaeological Congress. Apart from repairing many minor monuments around the country is has conserved the Uma-Mahesvara temple, the Visveshwara temple, Radha Krishna temple, Mani Gupha temple, Jagannath temple, Hari Shankar temple, and Repair of tile roofs of Sundari Chowk and Mula Chowk in Patan in the Patan Palace within two year. The repair of Lam Pati (Long Rest house), Taleju goddess temple (Patan palace), Iba bahi (Raj vihar - a Buddhist monastery), a square east of Keshab

Narayan Chowk in the Patan Palace, as well as the repair works of several temples and other historical buildings at Patan and Panauti are in progress. The study and architectural recording of Sundari Chowk is also to be completed this year under Japan-Unesco support. Some of the on going projects are being completed with the co-operation from Austrian, Japan, British, French and German Governments support. From about ten years the DOA is repairing the ancient palaces at Gorkha (the ancient palace of the present Shaha Kings). The Asian \Development Bank is also helping us for the implementation of tourist development projects at Gorkha. The repair of Changunarayan and Svayambhunath are also in progress. It is to be worth mentioned that the above two sites along with Hanuman Dhoka Palace, Patan and Bhaktapur palaces, the Bodhanatha stupa and the Pasupati temple area are included in the World Heritage List. The team from ISMEO, Italy, has recently carried out the important chemical conservation works within the Bhaktapur Palace (PL-1, A) and Pujari Math of the same town. The Mahendra Natural Heritage Trust is going to conserve the important northern edifices of Lomangthang this year.

Discovery of Important Early Sculptures and Icons

An important inscribed and dated portrait of King Jaya Varma has been found from the Maligaon, in the eastern portion of the Kathmandu city. The piece has been broken while digging ground for building a modern house in the area. It is 171 cm. long, made of sandstone, wearing a turban, ear rings, beaded necklace and other ornaments. The dress is Uttariya and lower dhoti and mekhala around the waist. From the dress, ornaments and date on the pedestal the piece can be safely dated to the 2nd century A.D. The portrait is modelled on the style of Mathura figures of Kushan Kings (except the legs which do not have shoes). It is interesting to note here that the piece has been found only within 200 feet west of the place from where the writer had found in 1965 the famous Yaksha figure (now kept in the National Museum at Chhawani). Both the pieces have been made of sandstone and sufficiently reflect the Mathura art tradition of the Kushan period. In this context it will be worth to mention about the recently discovered Mathura red sandstone weight piece from the ISMEO-DOA Excavation at Handigaon[24] which is less a furlong on the east of Maligaon. This portrait of Jayavarma and the Yaksha figure also might have been made of Mathura sandstone, which have become pale due to long period of exposure. It is here to be noted that the Lichchhavi school of art did not adopted sandstone rather than have always selected limestone for the manufacture of art objects and images.

Discovery of New Inscriptions

Within few years at least six new early inscriptions have been discovered from the Kathmandu Valley. They are—the Jayavarma inscription from Maligaon dated Samvat107,

two Manadeva inscription from Pasupati temple square dated samvat 381 and another from Bageshvara village within the water pranalika (also belonging to Manaleva period), an inscription from Naga Pokhari, Naksal, belonging to the Lichchhavi King Sivadeva II and inscription of King Jayadeva II dated samvat 149 from Patan, Chyasala area. All these inscriptions are definitly going to reflect important impact in the history of Nepal.

Discovery of Coins

Few years ago five silver punch marked coins from the Kathmandu Valley had been discovered from Battis putali area. Similar silver punch marked coins have been already noticed from Tilaurakot (Kapilavastu) and recently from Lumbini Mayadevi temple on the western terai and from Bhediari temple site (near Biratnagar, in the eastern terai region). From Kathmandu a Yaudheya copper coin with the inscription reading "Yaudeya Ganasya Jayaha" and many Kushan coins have been discovered.

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7. Ancient Nepal, 134, 1993; p.44; Ancient Nepal, 130-133, 1992-93.
8. Robert Shafer, Ethnography of Ancient India, Wiesbaden, 1954, p. 43.
9. P.H.L. Eggermont, The year of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana; the Date of the Historical Buddha Edited by H. Bechert, Vanden Loeck and Ruprect in Gottingen, part I, p. 241 - "Two great warriors entered his services. They marched ahead of him, cutting a path through the mountains. Asoka was welcomed in the kingdom of the Khasa."

9A. S.C. Saran and U. Sant, Harappan Elements In Neo-chalcolithic context of Middle Ganga Plain. World Archaeological Congress-3, December 4-11, 1994, New Delhi, pp. 1-2.

10. Giovanni Verardi, Excavations at Harigaon, Kathmandu, Roma 1992. pp. 10-12.
11. Similar Kundas have been exposed at Lumbini below the Mayadevi temple. Although the excavators have found till now only three kundas in the Sunga phase, there is every possibility of finding altogether five kundas in the same phase. (one for the Vastudevata and other four

for the Dikpalas). During the NBP phase (Mauryan period) nine more kundas have come to light below the same place.

12. S.B. Deo, Archaeological Excavations in Kathmandu, 1995; Dept. of Archaeology, Nepal.
13. The Yaksha figure was noticed by the present writer while excavating before the Maneswari temple in 1965 and the figure was removed to Singhadurabar and ultimately displayed in the National Museum at Chhawani.
14. The inscriptions giving some impressions about the palaces are the - Handigaon inscription dated Samvat 30 (A.D. 608) of Amsuvarma, where the different gates like Dakshinadvara, Kailashkuta, Pratoli, Paschimadvara, Managrihadvara Madhyamadvara and Uttaradvara are mentioned. The other inscription is the Nakshala Narayan Chawar inspt. of Jayadeva II, where also both the palaces have been located in the same area or side by side. The important edifices and places mentioned in this inscription are the courtyards of Kailashkutabhavan and Managriha, the Yadu gate, eastern as well as the western gateways of Kailashkuta palace. It is to be noted that while digging a foundation for a modern building at Handigaon Dabali few bricks (measuring 13"x 8-"x2-") had been discovered with the inscription over each brick reading- "Shri Maha Samantamsu Varmanah" in the Lichchhavi script (Ancient Nepal, DOA, No.3, April 1968, Notes and News).
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